**SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger**

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1. Bio of Maj Gen Leon Wm Johnson, USAF (3-3277-10)
2. Spl Proj File BG Frederick William Castle (4-17-18-12)
3. SSgt Henry E. Erwin, 1945 (4-2404-8)
4. Brigadier General Frederick W Castle, Medal of Honor (4-2404-4)
5. Bio Data - Awards and Decorations Names beginning CAS_____ (4-1947-43C)
6. Medal of Honor 1944-46, K141.2421VANCE (4-2404-27)
7. Awards and Decorations Names Beginning "VA"1942-1944-1945 (4-2081-16A) K141.2421VA)

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# MAJOR GENERAL LEON WILLIAM JOHNSON, USAF

Leon William Johnson was born at Columbia, Missouri, September 13, 1904. He was graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry June 12, 1926.

His first assignment was at Fort Crook, Nebraska, where he served with the 17th Infantry until March, 1929, when he entered primary flying school at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. In October, 1929, he transferred to advanced flying school at Kelly AFB, Texas, and was graduated with the rating of pilot in February, 1930. He was then ordered to Mitchel AFB, New York, as adjutant and engineering officer of the Fifth Observation Squadron. On March 24, 1930, he was transferred to the Air Force.

In June, 1932, General Johnson was assigned as adjutant and operations officer of the Second Observation Squadron at Nichols AFB. Three years later he entered the California Institute of Technology, where he received his Master of Science degree in meteorology in June, 1936.

General Johnson's next service was at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, as base operations officer in which capacity he served until July, 1937. He then became regional control officer of the Third Weather Region and commanding officer of the Third Weather Squadron at Barksdale AFB. A year later he entered the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, from which he was graduated in August, 1939.

He then returned to his duties at Barksdale AFB and in July, 1940, became commander of the headquarters and headquarters squadron of the Third Bombardment Group at that station. The following month he was appointed operations officer of the Third Bombardment Group at Savannah (Georgia) Air Base and in December, 1940, assumed command of the 10th Reconnaissance Squadron there.

General Johnson was one of the first four flying officers of the Eighth Air Force and served as assistant chief of staff for operations of that organization during its formative period, and when it went overseas in June, 1942. In January, 1943, he assumed command of the 44th Bomb Group. This group took part in outstanding operations in the European Theatre and in June, 1943, went to Africa on loan to the Ninth Air Force for the attack on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. After two months in Africa, he took the group back to England where it remained active until the end of World War II.

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In September, 1943, General Johnson organized the 14th Combat Bomb Wing, which continued under his command until the end of hostilities in Europe. He then returned with General Patton and General Doolittle for their tour of the United States, after which he was assigned as chief of Personnel Services in Washington. In May, 1946, he was appointed deputy to the assistant chief of air staff for personnel at Air Force headquarters and in April, 1947, became commanding general of the 15th Air Force at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

General Johnson assumed command of the Third Air Division of the U. S. Air Forces in Europe in August, 1948. He organized facilities in England for maintenance and support of B-29s rotated to Europe on training missions and for transport aircraft used in the Berlin Airlift. In February, 1950, he was appointed, in addition to his other duties, chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group for the United Kingdom.

In May, 1951, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, announced that the Third Air Division had been elevated to the Third Air Force, with General Johnson retaining command. The Third Air Force is under Headquarters, U. S. Air Forces in Europe, and has responsibility for the administration and support of all U. S. Air Force units in England. General Johnson retained his duty as chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group for the United Kingdom.

On January 30, 1952, General Johnson was named commanding general of the Continental Air Command at Mitchel Air Force Base, New York.

In 1943, General Johnson was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism while leading a heavy bombardment group in an attack on important Ploesti oil refineries.

He also has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Medal with Three Clusters. His foreign decorations include the French Legion of Honor in the grade of Chevalier, and Croix de Guerre, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

General Johnson is rated a command pilot, combat observer, aircraft observer and technical observer.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (permanent) December 1, 1931; to captain (temporary) March 15, 1935; to captain (permanent) June 12, 1936; to major (temporary) November 16, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) January 5, 1942; to colonel (temporary) March 1, 1942; to major (permanent) June 12, 1943; to brigadier general (temporary) November 6, 1943; to major general (temporary) October 27, 1947; to colonel (permanent) April 2, 1943; to brigadier general (permanent) June 11, 1948, with date of rank from March 25, 1945; to major general (permanent) August 11, 1950, with date of rank from April 2, 1945.

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